

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 6 are currently being considered, of which claims 1-3 and 5 have been amended and claim 6 has been newly added. Claim 4 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of its subject matter. Applicant respectfully believes that no new matter has been introduced.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5). Paragraph 0068 has been amended to include reference symbol 234a in lieu of 134b. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that this objection to the drawings should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has objected to the disclosure because of various noted informalities. Paragraphs 0055 and 060 have been amended to remove the noted informalities. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that this objection to the disclosure should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has objected to claims 3 and 4 because of various noted informalities. The Examiner has objected to claim 4 under 35 CFR 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form. Claim 3 has been amended to remove the noted informality. Claim 4 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of its subject matter. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that these objections to claims should be withdrawn.

Before turning to the cited art, a brief review of the present invention is in order. As shown by R1, R2 and R3 in FIG. 3, a part of the lights directly, and the other lights after reflected by the reflector 33 once or more, enter the back surface of the dial plate 1. These lights illuminate the outer figures 12. On the other hand, the light R0 from the light source L1 is

shaded by the shade 34a, so that the R0 cannot directly enter the inner figures 11. Thus, the inner figures 11 and the outer figures 12 are illuminated uniformly. The outer figures 12 are illuminated properly by the direct light R2, the reflected light R3 and the like. On the other hand, since the inner figures 11 are near the light source L1, without the shade 34a, the inner figures 11 is illuminated excessively by the direct light R0. However, the shade 34a shades the direct light R0. Further, since receiving reflected lights of R1, R2, R3 and the like, the inner figures 11 are illuminated properly. Under these effects, the inner figures 11 and the outer figures 12 are illuminated uniformly.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent 6,595,667 (**Obata**).

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Examiner suggests that **Obata** discloses a dial plate 5 having outer figures 52 arranged at a distant part from a hole 53. The Examiner concedes that **Obata** does not disclose inner figures.

As shown in FIG. 4, element 75 of **Obata** contacts dial plate 5 and is not spaced from the dial plate.

Obata fails to describe, teach, or suggest the following features of claim 1, as amended:
“a shade spaced from the dial plate and projecting from an outer wall of the cylinder a distance from the outer wall so as to prevent the inner figures from being illuminated by the direct light emitted from the light source”, in combination with the other claimed features.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has objected to claims 2 and 5, and has indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent claims 2 and 5, as amended, incorporate features of base claim 1. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that this objection to claims 2 and 5 should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has noted that claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objection set forth in the Office Action mailed August 10, 2004 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 3 has been amended to remove the noted informality. Independent claim 3, as amended, incorporates features of base claim 1.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the objection to claim 3 should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has noted that claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objections set forth in the Office Action mailed August 10, 2004 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 4 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of its subject matter. The newly added claim 6 incorporates the shade of

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claim 1 and he inverted semicircular cone of claim 4, in combination with other claimed features without the noted informality "a inverted".

Thus, in view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the objections to claim 4 should be withdrawn and that the newly added claim 6 is in condition for allowance.

Applicant respectfully submits that all amendments are supported by the application as originally filed.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, the claims of this application are believed to be in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS,
HANSON & BROOKS, LLP

Darren R. Crew (DARREN R. CREW)
REG. NO. 37,806
for William G. Kratz, Jr.
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 22,631

WGK/DRC/nrp
Atty. Docket No. 040166
Suite 1000
1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930



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